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SCORE BOTTLENECKS IN FUEL ALLOCATIONS

During 1950, the Toplivo (Fuel) Enterprise in Sofia completed its supply plan for coal 111.2 percent, of which the plan for high-grade Dituminous? Was met 134.4 percent, lignite 75.8, slack coal 105.7, and anthracite 65.2 percent.

Owing to the persistent efforts of the Toplivo Enterprise, the Tolbukhin, G. Dimitrov, and Beli Bryag pits have improved their grading plants and thereby the quality of their coal. On the other hand, 36,283 tons of mixed coal from the G. Dimitrov pit had to be reclassified as unsorted coal, 72,773 tons had to be rejected because of improper classification, 3,946 tons had to be reclassified in the Toplivo warehouses, and complaints had to be lodged with regard to 932 tons of coal delivered to the Sofia branch of Toplivo and 972 tons delivered in the provinces.

Generally speaking, the 1950 fuel supply showed a considerable improvement over previous years.

At present, however, the Toplivo warehouses are piled high with every type of coal and firewood, mostly lignite, of which there are 15,000 tons in storage. The extra rations of fuel allocated recently have failed to alleviate the situation substantially, and it is becoming increasingly difficult as the mines continue to ship the large daily quotas provided by the plan. Because of shortage of space, the coal and firewood have to be unloaded in the yards and, when the latter are crowded, directly in the street. To prevent deterioration and pilfering, the lignite is piled in stacks 2-2.5 meters high, but this temporary measure only partly alleviates these chaotic conditions. It is urgent that organizations and enterprises pick up the quotas of coal and firewood allocated to them under the plan. The enterprises of the Sofia Municipal Soviet are scheduled to receive 25,000 tons of coal for the first quarter of 1951, and similar quantities are allocated to various ministries. Only after the warehouses are relieved of these large quantities of heating materials, can the citizens of Sofia normally receive their fuel quota. However, this year the Bulgarian National Bank has refused to extend credits for the purchase of fuel to workers and employees. Therefore, many individuals can purchase the commodity

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in small quantities only, which means an additional delay in alleviating crowded warehouse conditions. The Narkoops and other grocery stores should be authorized to sell coal and firewood in small quantities to ease the situation of individual purchasers, who can obtain only large quotas of fuel in Toplivo warehouses.

The same bottlenecks in fuel warehouses prevail in Toplivo enterprises throughout the country.

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